

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 EUR-12 MC-02 L-03 SP-02

AID-05 IGA-02 /056 W

----- 045311

R 041354Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6154

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 639

ROME FOR RCAA DWOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SY

SUBJ: VISIT OF RCAA DWOR TO SYRIA

1. WE UNDERSTAND RCAA DWOR MAY BE TRAVELING IN AREA IN MID FEBRUARY AND WE HOPE HE CAN MAKE STOP IN DAMASCUS TO RENEW ACQUAINTANCES WITH SYRIAN ARAB AIR LINES (SAAL) OFFICIALS. VISIT WOULD BE VERY TIMELY IN VIEW OF FORTHCOMING DELIVERY OF NEW SAAL BOEING AIRCRAFT AND REPORTED BOEING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO BOEING EMPLOYEE WHO VISITED DAMASCUS FEB 2 TO REVIEW LIVING CONDITIONS, BOEING AND SAAL WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE SIGNED SUCH CONTRACT IN LONDON JAN 29; THIS COULD MEAN AS MANY AS 40 BOEING EMPLOYEES IN DAMASCUS BY APRIL. SAAL PLANNING DIRECTOR BALI INFORMED ECON- OFF FEB 4 THAT SAAL STILL NEGOTIATING TA CONTRACT WITH BOEING AND ALSO WITH OTHER FIRMS.

2. OWING TO EMBASSY'S VIP VISITORS FEB 15-17 AND FEB 28, RECOMMEND DWOR AIM FOR DAMASCUS VISIT IN PERIOD FEB 18 TO 25. PLEASE CONFIRM ETA SO WE MAY SET UP APPOINTMENTS. BALI AND OTHER OFFICIALS SHOULD BE BACK BY THEN FROM VISIT TO AMMAN
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WHICH BEGINS FEB 14, PURPOSE OF WHICH, HE SAID, WAS TO

COORDINATE SAAL AND ALIA ROUTE STRUCTURES, EQUIPMENT UTILIZATION, AND CONSIDER WHICH (OR BOTH) SHOULD REQUEST RIGHTS TO US. (PER STATE 291039 WE MADE NO COMMENT ON THIS LATTER ASPECT. DEPT SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT SYRIANS ARE THINKING OF 747SP UTILIZATION SYRIA/US AND MAY SOON REQUEST BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM DEPT OTHER THAN THAT IN STATE 291039.)

3. DWORS CORDIALLY INVITED TO STAY WITH WRIGHTS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACTS, NEGOTIATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC00639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760042-0881
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760284/aaaacvxi.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF RCAA DWOR TO SYRIA
TAGS: EAIR, SY, US, BOEING
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006